UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

UNDP

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(RAS/78/031)
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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF AFGHANISTAN, BANGLADESH, BHUTAN, BRUNEI, BURMA, COOK ISLANDS, FIJI, FRENCH POLYNESIA, GILBERT ISLANDS, HONG KONG, INDIA, INDONESIA, IRAN, LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, MALAYSIA, MALDIVES, MONGOLIA, NEPAL, NEW CALEDONIA, NEW HEBRIDES, NIUE, PAKISTAN, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, PHILIPPINES, REPUBLIC OF KOREA, SAMOA, SINGAPORE, SOLOMON ISLANDS, SRI LANKA, THAILAND, TONGA, TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS, TUVALU AND VIET NAM

Asian Regional Skill Development Programme
(ARSDEP) (RAS/78/031)

Report of the Administrator*

Date of present approval:	May 1979
Starting date of project activities:	January 1979 (under an advance authorization)
Planned completion date:	December 1981
To be executed by:	International Labour Organisation (ILO)
Government implementing agencies:	Ministries and Departments concerned with Vocational Training
Estimated cost of assistance planned under present approval:	$1 330 500
Source of UNDP financing:	Regional Indicative Planning Figure (IPF)

I. Background

1. The countries of the Asia and Pacific Region are characterized by high levels of unemployment and poverty. According to data supplied by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in 1975, there were 18 million unemployed and 168 million underemployed persons, together constituting 20 per cent of the total labour force of the developing countries of the Region. The Governments of the Region in their development plans envisage that employment will be the key element in alleviating poverty, maintaining a reasonable level of economic growth, and ensuring social justice. The employment strategies vary with the conditions, endowments and institutions of each of the countries but most of them regard vocational training as one of the major components of an employment-oriented development programme.

*In accordance with General Assembly resolution 2688 (XXV) and subsequent authorizations of the UNDP Governing Council, reports are issued seriatim on the approval of UNDP assistance of $250,000 or more (including, if any, assistance financed by the Government or by third-party cost sharing).

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2. The Asian Regional Skill Development Programme was organized to implement activities relevant to the employment needs of the participants. It will primarily be an instrument for inter-country collaboration and co-ordination in manpower development. It will serve as a forum for the examination and resolution of issues in manpower training that are common to the countries of the Region or where applicable, of a subregion. It will serve as a machinery for the systematic collection and dissemination of training materials, information, experience about manpower training and the exchange of expertise in training. It will also promote collaboration in training in order to make maximum use of available training resources in the Region.

II. Objectives and activities

3. The long-term objectives of the ARSDEP project are to: (a) eliminate unemployment and underemployment by improving training for productive employment; (b) increase labour productivity through better training; and (c) improve accessibility to training systems for a greater number of young people.

4. The direct programme objectives and activities of the ARSDEP proposal are the following: (a) policy development in training; (b) planning and programming of training activities; (c) intercountry and inter/institutional cooperation; (d) organization and administration of training; (e) training in rural areas; and (f) support services to training institutions.

5. The focal point for these activities will be national training institutions with the support of the Ministries of Labour, Manpower, Education, and Planning, and private organizations. The degree of the participation of the countries will differ according to the extent of their need as well as to their willingness and ability to support their programme.

III. Inputs

6. The participating Governments will provide local staff, some equipment, supplies, materials, local travel costs, and local costs in support of studies. UNDP inputs will be concerned with financing international experts, consultants, sub-contracts to regional institutions, travel for experts, subregional training courses and symposia, and miscellaneous and sundry items.

IV. Financial data

7. The expenditure components of the planned assistance are as follows:

	$
Personnel	906 300
Subcontracts	37 500
Training	281 100
Equipment	57 500
Miscellaneous	48 100
	1 330 500

8. The Governments will pay $960,000 towards related Executing Agency support costs. This amount, as expressed in US dollars, will be provided in kind.

9. The International Labour Organisation (ILO) will also pay $412,000 towards related Executing Agency support costs.

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